



With love from us all,
Rich Malone
 Rich Malone

Merry Christmas and let us pray that 2018 will be a year where all our work is done with all our hearts unto Jesus and for His glory alone. May we all be available to Him for His high purposes whether "behind the scenes" or "center stage." He is worthy!

I write you to join me in thanking the Father for the gift to the body of Christ and to Lake Forest Ranch of these two godly and capable brothers.

But, from time to time it's important to have a curtain call for those behind the scenes and to sing the praises of those who do the unseen work with no thought of any praise from people. Lake Forest Ranch has a number of unsung heroes. So here goes a "shout out" of gratefulness for a couple of them... LFR is so blessed to have the facilities team of Jeff Troyer and Chad Chapman. These two men bring so much talent, creativity, wisdom, expertise and dependability to this work. In short, we couldn't do what we do without both of them. If it's broken, they fix it; if it's ugly, they beautify it; if it can be done better, they improve it; and if it will benefit the overall work and ministry of LFR, they make it happen. God has gifted these two men and

Likewise, the idiom, "unsung hero", refers to a hero who has gotten no praise or recognition.

The meaning of the saying, "behind the scenes" is, "without receiving credit or fame and out of public view." In its origin, this refers to those who work on a theatrical piece but do not appear on the stage.

This year in celebration of the greatest gift ever given to us, the gift of God's own Son, we want to share with you some words from a couple of our team members at LFR who normally say few words publicly to you and who faithfully serve Jesus behind the scenes in taking care of this place called Lake Forest Ranch.

There are some who are more visible when doing work unto the Lord and there are some who work faithfully behind the scenes; they are all called to do our work from hearts full of love for Jesus and always for His glory alone.

I love that this phrase, "whatever you do," which is found only 5 or 4 times in the New Testament is followed by the word, "Do!" Our Father tells us, "do your work heartily as unto the Lord" and "do all things to the glory of God."

Many times when we use the phrase, "Whatever you do" it is followed by the word, "DON'T!" As in, "Billy, whatever you do, DON'T eat that Christmas cookie; it belongs to your sister."

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord..." Colossians 3:23 (NKJV)
 "... whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10:31



*From all of us at LFR who are so greatly
 blessed by our wonderful Savior, Who is Immanuel*

Year-round Staff & their Families on the Cover Photo from L to R:

Front Row: Sara, Zeke and Bo Chapman; Eliana, Talor and Joe Troyer
 Second Row: Emma Hall; Hank & Chad Chapman; McKenna, Jeff and Lila Troyer
 Third Row: Elio, Nick, Stefanie and Ava Hall; Rich & Sandy Malone;
 Gray Barnes; Amy Gauntt; Emily Nolte; Tina Harmon

Our LFR Board of Directors: Steve Morris (Chairman),

Randy Morris (Vice Chairman), Becky Cowan (Secretary),
 Richard Barge, Jonathan Case, Kathy Case, Haley Dawkins, Laura Leone,
 J.L. Morris, Jesse Morris, Rick Shurtz and Jennifer Thompson



Chapman Family

Writing an article about me is a little out of my comfort zone. I feel blessed beyond measure to have work that I love and enjoy. I have been at LFR for almost 11 years. I have never once dreaded coming to work. It's not always easy and sometimes it's stressful. What job isn't? I've been faced with challenges that seemed overwhelming at times. I've had to learn to give leadership when I felt inadequate. I've made up some stuff as I went along. I've also had a ton of fun and enjoyed even the hard parts. God has shown up time after time to help me.

My work basically consists of this; fix broken things, pay attention to what may need to be fixed soon, and overall, take care of this place. I love working outside and I've got something new to do every day. I just take it one day at a time. I put in a hard day and keep my mind on things that are not of this world. I think about the way a father loves his kids. I think often about how the Father loves me.

My wife Sara is remarkable. My boys Hank, Bo, and Zeke are exemplary. The people I work alongside are wise, kind and resourceful. I'm a man of simple tastes. All I've ever wanted to do is live a life that is glorifying to Jesus. It's a great life; I work hard, shower, eat and go to sleep; then do it all over again the next day. I'm just happy and feel honored to serve.

Chad Chapman

Ropes Course Director and LFR Asst. Facilities Manager since 2007



Troyer Family

Our family has had a busy year filled with God's blessings and with some sorrow that is inevitable in a fallen world. We started off 2017 with the exciting news that we would be adding to our family. We were expecting a baby due in August and were overjoyed with this blessing. Not long after this we received word that Talor's Step-Grandmother had passed away, this was expected due to her declining health but nevertheless a sad event. Soon after this we learned also of her uncle's declining health. He had received a terminal diagnosis of liver cancer and passed away within a month of his diagnosis. He was an important part of Talor's life and this loss was extremely hard. He passed away on a Monday, that following Thursday we found out we were having a boy. It was hard to not be able to tell him that our son would be named after him.

It was a time of mixed emotions; excitement that we were having a little boy whose three sisters were praying hard for a brother and a time of sorrow as we said goodbye to a man who had left an amazing legacy of faith. Our son was born on August 12th, at 9:38 am, and we were reminded of the goodness of the Lord as we held him and gave him the name James "Joe" Ray Troyer. Talor's uncle was named James 'Joe' Gaston. He was the Asst. Superintendent of Education. Everyone in the community knew him as Joe. Very few people knew his given name which was James. But most everyone in the community knew who he was as a person and knew his character. One thing is true, Talor and I are very honored that we were able to use this name. The name Ray is after my father and again we were so proud to name him after another godly man whose faithful service has always been such an amazing example to our family. We gave our little guy a name he can always be proud of that speaks of a Christ-filled legacy.

In October we dedicated our son to the Lord here at Lake Forest Ranch during our church's fall picnic. It was a time of great joy and celebration! Two days later Talor's aunt passed away very unexpectedly during a routine surgery. Another loss for her family and another time to rely on our Lord to see us through.

Through all of this our family has leaned on the Lord and we have seen His faithfulness even in our weakest moments. The words of this song keep going through my head, "He gives and takes away, but my heart will choose to say, 'Blessed be thy name.'" Our family has cried out to Him in pain and in gladness this year, and He has never left our side. So, as we look to celebrating our Savior's birth and this new year that is fast approaching, may we all know that whatever this year holds for our families, whether great joys or great sorrows or some of both, that our God will be there beside us. His love, faithfulness, and grace will never leave us or forsake us.

Jeff Troyer

LFR Facilities Manager since 2006

How Your Tax-Deductible Gift Can Help LFR

The enclosed envelope lists continuing areas of need for Lake Forest Ranch. Please pray with us about each of these areas of opportunity and need. We are so thankful for your friendship and your faithful support! Christmas gifts to LFR make a huge difference.

Unrestricted Gifts – We rely on gifts to cover approximately 8% of our annual operating budget. Rather than raise rates to cover this and thus exclude some who need to come to camp, we have asked for believers to join us in covering this financial need. If the camper fees we receive are sufficient, those funds are used in the areas most pressing.

Camp Improvements – We have made some significant improvements and upgrades to our camp facilities in the past two

years. Your gift this year to camp improvements will help us to provide adequate housing for our year-round staff. Some of the staff housing has gotten very old and beyond cost-effective repair. Your gift will help us to take care of the housing needs of the important folks who keep LFR moving forward every day.

Mission Camp Macon – July 8 -15, 2018 will be our 15th annual Mission Camp Macon week for Noxubee County youth and children. Children and young people are hearing about Jesus every summer at this fantastic and energetic outreach camp. During summer 2017 there were over 30 kids and teens from Noxubee County who received new life in Christ along with many others who grew a lot in their relationship with Jesus. Gifts to MCM help us to keep the door open to this important ministry of

loving people in our needy county and connecting lives and churches right here in Macon.

Camperships – It takes a lot of giving to this fund to get all of the campers to Lake Forest summer camp who request financial help. You are invited to impact some of those lives by a gift to help meet this vital need.

Non-Cash Gifts – Right now one of our facilities staff trucks is in bad shape and it needs to be replaced. If you have a used 4wd truck or any other item of value that you would like to offer to Lake Forest Ranch, it would be a tax-deductible gift too. Call to let us know what you would like to offer and we can let you know if it will meet a need.



Merry Christmas

LOVE FROM ALL OF US AT LAKE FOREST RANCH
 The Prince of Peace has come ... Let's Celebrate!